# NASA names STS-92 Space Flight Awareness Launch Honoree Award recipients

*NASA recently named 15 JSC civil servants recipients of its prestigious Space Flight Awareness Launch Honoree Award for the STS-92 mission.*

## Keith Albyn

Albyn, an aerospace technologist, has sustained a high level of performance in support of space station and space shuttle hardware contamination testing and assessment, providing both testing and analysis of materials for use in space environments. This data and analysis is essential for successful application of materials on critical optical or thermal surfaces exposed to space.

## Ronald Baccus

Baccus, an aerospace engineer, has contributed to the development of the X-38 Crew Return Vehicle both as a structural designer and as a stress analyst. He is responsible for the detailed design of the vehicle's carbon-fiber composite aeroshell panels, which form the outer shape of the spacecraft when combined with the thermal protection tiles and blankets. His efforts have led to the implementation of a stiffened laminate construction for all the panels, resulting in a significant reduction in development costs.

## Robert Durkin

Durkin is a program manager who has been instrumental in the engineering and management of the design through manufacturing of EVA and IVA mockups for the space shuttle and the International Space Station. These mockups are being used in the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory and Space Vehicle Mockup Facility for astronaut training in techniques in space shuttle and International Space Station activities. Durkin started at JSC designing mockups at the Weightless Environment Training Facility and has taken that experience to manage and engineer multiple mockup projects.

## Vince Fogt

Fogt, an aerospace engineer, assesses finite element models for adequacy in predicting structural dynamic response of payloads during shuttle flight and to support International Space Station Program on-orbit loads validation. His expertise is essential in ensuring that the models used to predict dynamic response behavior are the best that can be provided. He was recently called upon to provide expert loads and dynamics consultation to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory to develop high-quality models to protect the Orbiter during the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission. His knowledge of the dynamic loads coupling phenomenon between the Orbiter and its constantly changing payloads allowed him to provide the insight required to validate necessary flight guidance parameters to ensure mission safety.

## John Hoover

Currently a flight manager in the Mission Operations Directorate, Hoover, an electrical engineer, has contributed to NASA in a wide variety of roles during his more than 35-year career with the agency. Early in his career at JSC, he supported every flight from Gemini 4 to Apollo 15 either for the Recovery Operations Control Center or deployed as an advisor to the Department of Defense recovery forces. He served as a senior electronics data manager in Aircraft Operations during the Skylab Program. Following that assignment, he took on the challenge of learning shuttle payload operations and became one of the first certified payloads officers, making pioneering contributions to payload operations on the early shuttle flights. In 1986, he joined the Mission Integration & Schedule Management Office as a shuttle flight manager, serving in this capacity for ten years. He then became a member of the initial flight manager team to pioneer development of the flight and increment preparation processes for the International Space Station.

## Bradley Irlbeck

Irlbeck, an aerospace engineer, is the design engineer responsible for the Space Shuttle Auxiliary Power Unit. His efforts have been instrumental in the safe and successful flight operation of this critical subsystem. He has helped resolve numerous flight anomalies and has been the driving force behind many subsystem improvements. In his role as project manager for the Electric Auxiliary Power Unit, he has initiated and is leading a major upgrade of this subsystem to achieve major improvements in flight and ground safety. To date, he has justified initial funding to start the advanced development for this project and has assembled a team of multiple NASA centers and industrial partners.

## Glenda Johnson

Johnson, a program analyst, recognized the need for a more efficient means to communicate and manage the flight projects budget. This recognition led to the development of a share drive internal budget database for the Flight Projects Division. This database tool, which has become the backbone of the division's performance status, enables technical and resources personnel to manage and communicate budget matters on a real-time basis, resulting in early detection of cost issues and numerous cost savings to the space station and space shuttle programs.

## Joe Kosmo

Kosmo, a spacesuit engineer, is responsible for managing and directing the advancement of technologies applicable to extravehicular activity. He has continually focused spacesuit technology to be consistent with NASA's goals for the exploration of space. One of his leading contributions has been providing leadership in the advancement of spacesuit glove assemblies. Glove advancements made under his leadership have included innovative design modifications that increase hand dexterity and tactile feedback while reducing hand fatigue. In addition, he recently led the effort to establish a Mars surface simulator at JSC, which allows for inexpensive evaluation of EVA systems requirements for Mars exploration.

## Ronald Lee

Lee, lead director of training operations in Russia, has made significant contributions to International Space Station crew training over the past two years. As director of training operations in Russia, he led a team of managers and engineers assigned to represent the Mission Operations Directorate and Space Flight Training Division management with respect to crew training operations in Star City, Russia. He set high standards for the information flow between Star City and JSC, worked training issues to resolution, and strengthened the Director Training Ops in Russia links with the other NASA offices in Moscow.

## Kathy Lueders

Lueders is the lead of the International Space Station Logistics and Maintenance Ground Operations Support Team. She has successfully managed the Post-Production Support portion of the prime contract including overseeing development of the PPS operating plan, performing contractor evaluations, and managing the budget. In addition, she has established all required documentation to support long-term maintenance and repair of station hardware.

## Nancy Muir

Program Analyst Muir's efforts were instrumental in the effective reorganization of the Institutional Resources Management Office in the Office of the Chief Financial Officer. Immediately following the creation of the IRMO, a key person resigned as the resources integrator for a major JSC organization. Muir volunteered to continue performing her function as JSC's architect for the development of the center's full-cost budgeting and management processes, assume other functions as needed, and be the primary trainer for the new replacement integrator when one was named. Her can-do attitude allowed a number of personnel moves to be accomplished in a timely manner for the good of the organization.

## Edward Robertson

Robertson, an aerospace engineer, led the recent effort to build and test the latest atmospheric prototype of the Crew Return Vehicle. This fiberglass vehicle recently completed its first captive flight aboard a B-52 bomber and is being readied for its first flight. He was instrumental in identifying the requirements for this vehicle, monitoring the construction of the fiberglass structure, and planning and supervising the systems installation and integrated checkout. As a result of his efforts, this prototype of a vehicle crucial to crew safety aboard the space station is proceeding very aggressively to flight test.

## Denise Romero

As the division chief engineer for the Avionic System Division, Romero serves as the focal point for all interactions with the Space Shuttle Program and as the representative to the Engineering Directorate's chief engineer for the space shuttle. She led the effort to resolve government furnished equipment loads issues that were a constraint to the STS-106 mission. It had been determined that the certification of GFE items more than 15 years old was inadequate. After finding as much of the historical data for each hardware element that was available, Romero led the activities between ASD and the Structures and Mechanics Division personnel to assure that the required loads analysis was completed.

## Damon Shaffer

Shaffer, the Z1 Truss element manager in the International Space Station Vehicle Office for the past two years, has been instrumental in completing the design, manufacture, and testing of the truss as well as in ensuring its final acceptance by NASA. His efforts have helped resolve several critical technical issues that have arisen during the development of the truss. Most recently, he has worked to ensure final closure of the issues and actions required for final flight readiness and successful integration of the Z1 into the shuttle.

## Anne White

A division secretary, White supports Operations Division civil service and contractor employees working in the Houston Support Group in Moscow. She coordinates and arranges travel to and from Moscow for all Operations Division civil service employees who average a minimum of four trips per year for periods of six to nine months. She is recognized as a vital link between HSG personnel in Moscow and their coworkers and families in Houston. ■